

Message Text

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ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 HEW-06 OIC-02 CU-04 AID-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 EA-09 FRB-01 INR-07

IO-11 NEA-10 NSAE-00 OPIC-06 SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-02

LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AS-01 USIA-15 /113 W

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FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0001

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 OECD PARIS 0411

DEPT PASS IO/HEW FOR LEESTMA, NIE FOR HODGKINSON

EO 11652 N/A

TAGS SEDU OECD

SUBJECT EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING, DEC. 9-13, 1975

REF PARIS OECD 32100

SUMMARY. EDUCATION COMMITTEE MET DECEMBER 9-13, 1975;
ELECTED US DEL ROBERT C LEESTMA COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN FOR
FY 1976; REVIEWED CANADIAN EDUCATIONAL POLICIES WITH
CANADIAN AUTHORITIES, AND AGREED TO MAKE PROGRAM PROPOSALS
AND ASSIGN PRIORITIES THERETO FOR THE 1977 WORK
PROGRAM SHOULD THE COMMITTEE'S CURRENT MANDATE BE
EXTENDED BEYOND DECEMBER, 1976. COMMITTEE MEETS MAY
19-21, 1976. END SUMMARY

1. ELECTIONS

DR ROBERT LEESTMA ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER FOR INSTITUTIONAL
DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECUCATION, OE/HEW,
WAS ELECTED EDUCATION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, (REFTEL).

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DELEGATES OF ITALY SWEDEN AND FRANCE WERE ELECTED VICE-

CHAIRMEN.

2. PROGRESS REPORT

A. DIRECTORATE HEAD GASS REFERRED TO THE BELGIAN INTEREST IN MERGING THE MANPOWER AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE WITH THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE. IN THE BELGIAN VIEW, ACTIVITIES OF BOTH GROUPS ARE CONCERNED WITH ENHANCING INDIVIDUAL WELL-BEING. WHILE GASS NOTED SCANT SUPPORT IN THE MSAC FOR THIS PROPOSAL, HE SAID THAT MEMBER COUNTRIES MUST DECIDE FAIRLY SOON SINCE EDUCATION COMMITTEE'S MANDATE EXPIRES DECEMBER 1976. RE DECENTRALIZED PROJECTS, GASS SAID SCHOOL BUILDING AND INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION (IMHE) PROGRAMS SHOULD CONTINUE WHILE INSTITUTIONAL MANAGEMENT TRAINING FOR EDUCATIONAL CHANGE SHOULD BE TERMINATED IF MEMBER COUNTRIES SO DESIRE. GASS NOTED CONSIDERABLE FRENCH INTEREST IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, WHICH FRENCH FEEL COULD BE BASIS FOR A MINISTERIAL MEETING.

B. PORTUGUESE DEL SAID A REPORT ON REGIONAL SUPPORT CENTERS FOR TEACHERS HAD BEEN COMPLETED AND GOP HOPES MEMBER COUNTRY EXPERTS WILL ATTEND 5-DAY SEMINAR IN LISBON BEGINNING JAN 12. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION OF THIS POINT. (NOTE: MISSION HAS JUST LEARNED THAT PORTUGUESE DEL BROACHED SUBJECT INFORMALLY DURING CLOSING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 1975 CERI GOVERNING BOARD MEETING. WHILE US AND SEVERAL OTHER DELS WERE NOT PRESENT AT THAT TIME, SWEDEN, FRANCE, NETHERLANDS, WEST GERMANY, SPAIN, ITALY, IRELAND AND UK EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING. IN SUBSEQUENT TELEPHONE CONTACT BY SECRETARIAT OF THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH INDICATED AN INTEREST, ONLY SWEDEN, SPAIN, ITALY AND NETHERLANDS SAID THEY WOULD DEFINITELY SEND EXPERTS. AS AGREED TO BY GOP AND SECRETARIAT, THE GOP THEN SENT FORMAL INVITATIONS TO THOSE FOUR COUNTRIES THIS PROJECT WAS FIRST CONCEIVED BY OECD AND PORTUGUESE EDUCATION MINISTRY IN 1973, BUT HAS NOT BEEN IMPLEMENTED. PROJECT WILL INCLUDE TEACHER TRAINING, DEVELOPMENT OF CULTURAL/COMMUNITY CENTERS, TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO SCHOOLS, FINANCING AND DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS. FOUR EXPERIMENTAL

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REGIONAL CENTERS HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED IN OPORTO, FARO, PONTA DELGADA (AZORES) AND FUNCHAL. ACCORDING TO SECRETARIAT, DEPENDING ON RESULTS OF JAN MEETING, OTHER OECD COUNTRIES WILL BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY FOLLOW-UP PROGRAMS. END NOTE).

C. US DEL, SUPPORTED BY SEVERAL OTHER DELEGATIONS, PRAISED QUALITY OF COMBINED PROGRESS REPORT (EDUCATION COMMITTEE AND CERI) WHICH FULLY EXPLAINED RANGE OF

ACTIVITIES AND THEREBY ENABLED COMMITTEE TO BETTER
ESTABLISH PRIORITIES.

3. EDUCATION AND WORKING LIFE

FRENCH DEL SAID THAT RESPONSIBILITIES OF SOCIETY,
SCHOOL,EMPLOYERS AND UNIONS MUST BE DEFINED CLEARLY
TO AVOID "SOCIAL CONFLICTS AT THE WORKPLACE." US DEL
REPORTED THAT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EDUCATION AND WORK
IS OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE TO US, AND OUTLINED CONCLUSIONS
OF RECENTLY COMPLETED STUDY:"THE BOUNDLESS RESOURCE -
A PROSPECTUS FOR AN EDUCATION-WORK POLICY." US DEL
NOTED SIMILARITIES BETWEEN CONCLUSIONS OF US REPORT AND
SECRETARIAT PAPER. MOST DELEGATIONS AGREED THAT FOLLOW-
UP WORK IN THIS AREA IS WARRANTED AND WILL CONSIDER
SPECIFIC PROPOSALS WHICH SECRETARIAT WILL FORMULATE
FOR CONSIDERATION AT NEXT MEETING.

4 LIFELONG ALLOCATION OF TIME

GASS SUMMARIZED REPORT "FLEXIBLE LIFELONG ALLOCATION OF
TIME" AND SUGGESTED ITS CONCLUSIONS COULD PROVIDE BASIS
FOR OECD RECOMMENDATION. HE ALSO REPORTED ON MANPOWER
AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE'S VIEW OF DOCUMENT AS
"INTERESTING BUT NOT RELEVANT IN PRESENT ECONOMIC SITUATION."
HE THEN ASKED EDUCATION COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER

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SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE WORK AT ITS NEXT SESSION. SEVERAL DELEGATIONS SUGGESTED THAT SUCH ISSUES AS FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND PLANNING PROBLEMS OF FLEXIBLE WORKING HOURS AND EARLIER RETIREMENTS DESERVE FURTHER STUDY. THE COMMITTEE AGREED THAT MEMBER COUNTRIES SHOULD REPORT ON RELEVANT MEASURES TAKEN IN THEIR COUNTRIES, AND THAT DRAFT REPORT WITHOUT RECOMMENDATIONS COULD BE DERESTRICTED.

5. OPTIONS FOR YOUTH

MOST DELS COMMENTED ON TRANSITIONAL PROBLEMS YOUNG PEOPLE FACE IN GOING FROM EDUCATION TO WORK. JAPANESE DEL SAID PROBLEM IS OF LESSER CONCERN IN JAPAN WHERE 90 PERCENT OF YOUTH COMPLETE HIGH SCHOOL AND 40 PERCENT ENTER COLLEGE; AND, EXCEPT FOR EMPLOYEES OF SMALL INDUSTRY, WORKERS ENJOY LIFE-TIME EMPLOYMENT. US DEL SAID SECRETARIAT APPROACH WAS OVERLY AMBITIOUS IN DEALING WITH TOO MANY INTERRELATED ISSUES AND DOCUMENTS (E.G.) "ENTRY OF YOUNG PEOPLE INTO WORKING LIFE", A DRAFT UNCLASSIFIED

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BASED ON NATIONAL REPORTS FROM NINE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES; "OPTIONS BEYOND COMPULSORY SCHOOLING", A GLOBAL ANALYSIS OF THE PROBLEMS OF YOUTH IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIETY.) HE SUGGESTED, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT EMPHASIS BE PLACED ON CAREER EDUCATION WHICH COULD STRENGTHEN THE LINK BETWEEN EDUCATION AND WORK BY GRAPPLING WITH, INTER-ALIA, SUCH FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES AS SCHOOL REFORM. HE THEN CAUTIONED SECRETARIAT AGAINST ITS PROPOSAL THAT CERI EMBARK ON RESEARCH PROJECT INTO UNDERLYING REASONS FOR YOUTH PROBLEMS, SINCE THIS PROPOSAL WAS BEYOND CERI'S COMPETENCE AND SCOPE OF WORK. SECRETARIAT THEN REPORTED THAT THIS PROPOSAL HAD, IN FACT, BEEN REJECTED BY THE CERI GOVERNING BOARD. THE COMMITTEE APPROVED SECRETARIAT PROPOSAL TO SET UP A JOINT WORKING PARTY OF THE EDUCATION, MANPOWER AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEES TO CONSIDER A DRAFT POLICY REPORT ON OPTIONS FOR YOUTH. THE COMMITTEE ALSO APPROVED A PROPOSAL THAT THE JOINT WP CONSIDER PROBLEMS CONCERNING ADULT EDUCATION. THE WP WILL REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE NEXT SUMMER AND RECOMMEND POSSIBLE FUTURE WORK.

6. EDUCATIONAL BUILDING

DISCUSSION WAS DEFERRED TO MAY MEETING.

7. CANADIAN REVIEW

AN INTERESTING EXCHANGE OF VIEWS DEVELOPED BETWEEN EXAMINERS, CANADIAN EDUCATIONAL AUTHORITIES AND DELEGATIONS FROM FEDERALLY STRUCTURED GOVERNMENTS. CANADIAN DEL STRESSED OVERRIDING IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL AUTONOMY ("PROVINCES REIGN SUPREME") IN SETTING EDUCATIONAL POLICY. CANADIANS DISAGREED SHARPLY WITH EXAMINERS' CONTENTION THAT SCHOOL BOARDS HAVE LITTLE INFLUENCE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY SINCE THEIR PRIMARY CONCERN IS WITH BUDGETS. CANADIANS CONTENDED THAT THE BUDGET DETERMINES POLICY, I.E.: NUMBER OF TEACHERS, SCHOOL DAYS, CURRICULUM, TESTING REQUIREMENTS, SCHOOL BUILDING CONSTRUCTION, EQUIPMENT, ETC. EXAMINERS REMAINED UNCONVINCED AND COUNTERED THAT VIRTUALLY ALL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS INTERVIEWED IN CANADA DOWNPLAYED IMPORTANCE OF

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BUDGET EXERCISE, AND EXPRESSED FRUSTRATION RE THEIR INABILITY TO DETERMINE POLICY.

8. PUBLIC EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION

THE COMMITTEE ENDORSED THE REPORT OF THE AD-HOC WORKING GROUP WHICH USED AS THE BASIS FOR ITS REPORT THE STUDY PREPARED BY WP-2 OF THE ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE.

9. DRAFT PROGRAM OF WORK FOR 1977

DELEGATIONS WERE INVITED TO REVIEW SECRETARIAT PROPOSALS, COMMENT THEREON, AND SET PRIORITIES. SECRETARIAT WILL REVIEW COMMENTS MADE BY MEMBER COUNTRIES AND FINALIZE PROPOSALS FOR MAY MEETING. THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT ISSUES SELECTED MUST REPRESENT COMMON CONCERNS WITHIN OECD COUNTRIES. US DEL OBSERVED THAT SECRETARIAT PROPOSALS CONTAIN CONSIDERABLE OVERLAP IN CERI AND EDUCATION WORK PROGRAMS, AND THAT DUPLICATION OF EFFORT SHOULD BE AVOIDED.

10. MEETING DATES

EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETS MAY 19-21, AND NOVEMBER 24-26, 1976. THE CERI GB MEETS JUNE 21-23 AND NOVEMBER 22-23, 1976.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING CHAIRMAN, ELECTION RESULTS, COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976OECDP00411
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760005-0878
From: OECD PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760179/aaaacssp.tel
Line Count: 276
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: castelsl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2004 by barnescd>; APPROVED <17 AUG 2004 by castelsl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING, DEC. 9-13, 1975
TAGS: SEDU, US, OECD, (LEESTMA, ROBERT C)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006